Sub B1

1. A basketball backboard assembly comprising:

a backboard frame structure having a bonding surface;

an acrylic backboard having a bonding surface; and

an elastomeric adhesive sandwiched between the frame bonding surface and the backboard bonding surface.

2. A basketball backboard assembly according to claim 1, wherein the elastomeric adhesive has a bond gap in the range from about 2 to 2.5 mm (0.08 to 0.1 inch).

3. A basketball backboard assembly according to claim 1, wherein the elastomeric adhesive is a catalyzed adhesive.

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4. A basketball backboard assembly according to claim 3, wherein the elastomeric adhesive is catalyzed silicone adhesive.

5. A basketball backboard assembly according to claim 3, wherein the elastomeric adhesive is a two-part catalyzed adhesive in which the two parts are combined in a ratio to provide a set time in the range from about 7 to 15 minutes.

6. A basketball backboard assembly according to claim 3, wherein the elastomeric adhesive is a two-part catalyzed adhesive in which the two parts are combined in a ratio to provide a set time in the range from about 5 minutes to 1 hour.

7. A basketball backboard assembly according to claim 1, further comprising a plurality of bond gap spacers located between the frame bonding surface and the backboard bonding surface to provide a defined bond gap.

8. A basketball backboard assembly according to claim 7, wherein the plurality of bond gap spacers comprise spherical beads.

9. A basketball backboard assembly according to claim 8, wherein the spherical beads comprise glass microspheres.

10. A basketball backboard assembly according to claim 9, wherein the glass microspheres have a diameter in the range from about 2 to 2.5 mm (0.08 to 0.1 inch).

11. A basketball backboard assembly according to claim 1, wherein the backboard frame structure is metal.

12. A basketball backboard assembly according to claim 1, wherein the backboard frame structure is painted metal.

13. A basketball backboard assembly according to claim 1, wherein the backboard bonding surface contains a printed image.

14. A basketball backboard assembly comprising:

a metal backboard frame structure having a bonding surface;

an acrylic backboard having a bonding surface; and

a catalyzed silicone adhesive sandwiched between the frame bonding surface and the backboard bonding surface, wherein the silicone adhesive has a bond gap in the range from about 2 to 2.5 mm, wherein the silicone adhesive is configured to provide a set time in the range from about 5 minutes to 1 hour; and

a plurality of bond gap spacers located between the frame bonding surface and the backboard bonding surface to provide the bond gap.

15. A basketball backboard assembly according to claim 14, wherein the silicone adhesive is configured to provide a set time in the range from about 7 to 15 minutes.

16. A basketball backboard assembly according to claim 14, wherein the plurality of bond gap spacers comprise spherical beads.

17. A basketball backboard assembly according to claim 16, wherein the spherical beads comprise glass microspheres.

18. A basketball backboard assembly according to claim 17, wherein the glass microspheres have a diameter in the range from about 2 to 2.5 mm (0.08 to 0.1 inch).

19. A method of bonding an acrylic basketball backboard to a frame structure comprising:

(a) applying an elastomeric adhesive to a bonding surface of the acrylic backboard;

(b) positioning a frame structure onto the acrylic backboard such that a bonding surface of the frame structure contacts the elastomeric adhesive;

(c) maintaining a predetermined bond gap between the backboard bonding surface and the frame bonding surface; and

(d) allowing the elastomeric adhesive to cure.

20. A method according to claim 19, wherein the elastomeric adhesive is a silicone adhesive.

21. A method according to claim 19, wherein the elastomeric adhesive is a urethane adhesive.

22. A method according to claim 19, further comprising the step of preparing the acrylic backboard bonding surface to receive the elastomeric adhesive.

23. A method according to claim 22, wherein the step of preparing the acrylic backboard bonding surface to receive the elastomeric adhesive comprises printing an image on the bonding surface with an ink which securely bonds to the bonding surface.

24. A method according to claim 19, further comprising the step of preparing the frame structure bonding surface to receive the elastomeric adhesive.

25. A method according to claim 24, wherein the step of preparing the frame structure bonding surface to receive the elastomeric adhesive comprises roughening the frame bonding surface.

26. A method according to claim 19, further comprising the step of positioning a plurality of bond gap spacers between the frame bonding surface and the backboard bonding surface to provide the elastomeric adhesive bond gap.

27. A method according to claim 26, wherein the bond gap spacers provide a bond gap in the range from about 2 to 2.5 mm (0.08 to 0.1 inch).

28. A method according to claim 26, wherein the bond gap spacers comprise spherical beads.

29. A method according to claim 28, wherein the spherical beads comprise glass microspheres.

30. A method according to claim 19, wherein the elastomeric adhesive is applied to the backboard bonding surface with a bond width in the range from about 1 cm to 2 cm.

31. A method of bonding an acrylic basketball backboard to a frame structure comprising:

(a) applying an elastomeric adhesive to a bonding surface of the frame structure;

(b) positioning the acrylic backboard onto the frame structure such that a bonding surface of the backboard contacts the elastomeric adhesive;

(c) maintaining a predetermined bond gap between the backboard bonding surface and the frame bonding surface; and

(d) allowing the elastomeric adhesive to cure.

32. A method according to claim 31, wherein the elastomeric adhesive is a silicone adhesive.

33. A method according to claim 31, wherein the elastomeric adhesive is a urethane adhesive.

34. A method according to claim 31, further comprising the step of preparing the acrylic backboard bonding surface to receive the elastomeric adhesive.

35. A method according to claim 34, wherein the step of preparing the acrylic backboard bonding surface to receive the elastomeric adhesive comprises chemically treating the acrylic bonding surface to permit the elastomeric adhesive to penetrate the acrylic bonding surface.

36. A method according to claim 34, wherein the step of preparing the acrylic backboard bonding surface to receive the elastomeric adhesive comprises producing an image on the bonding surface with an ink that securely bonds to the bonding surface.

37. A method according to claim 31, further comprising the step of preparing the frame structure bonding surface to receive the elastomeric adhesive.

38. A method according to claim 37, wherein the step of preparing the frame structure bonding surface to receive the elastomeric adhesive comprises roughening the frame bonding surface.

39. A method according to claim 31, further comprising the step of positioning a plurality of bond gap spacers between the frame bonding surface and the backboard bonding surface to provide the elastomeric adhesive bond gap.

40. A method according to claim 39, wherein the bond gap spacers provide a bond gap in the range from about 2 to 2.5 mm (0.08 to 0.1 inch).

41. A method according to claim 39, wherein the bond gap spacers comprise spherical beads.

42. A method according to claim 41, wherein the spherical beads comprise glass microspheres.

43. A method according to claim 31, wherein the elastomeric adhesive is applied to the backboard bonding surface with a bond width in the range from about 1 cm to 2 cm.